



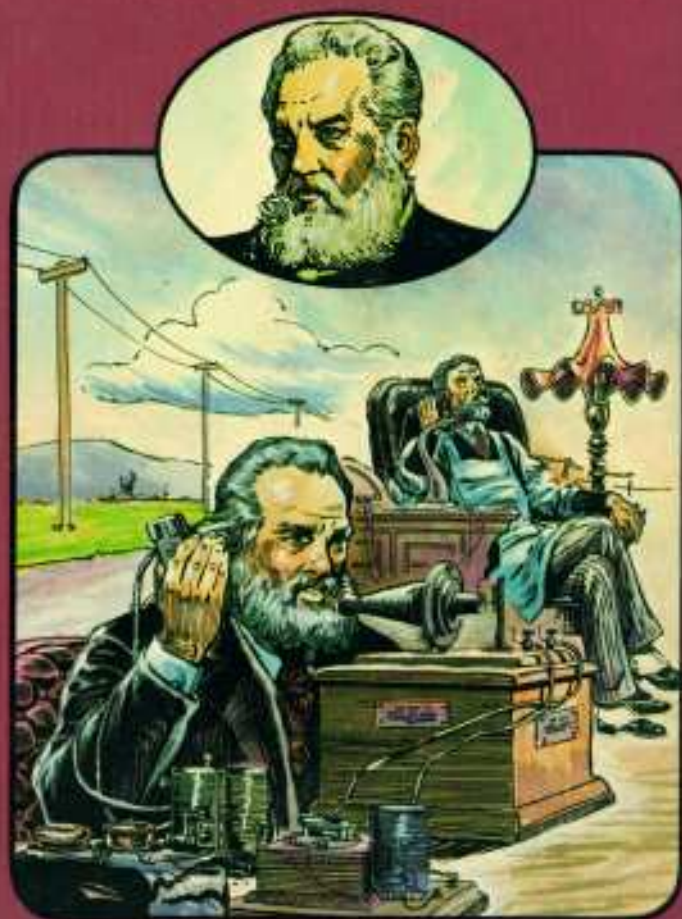
88301-789-X/\$1.95

A Fun  
Gold Yourself  
Section Included!

## Alexander Graham Bell

### Alexander Graham Bell

The lives of well-known men and women have influenced and shaped our history. In the Pocket Biographies, we meet many of these people whose contributions to science, government, medicine, sports and entertainment have deeply affected all of us. Their achievements support the famous statement of Thomas Carlyle: "Biography is the only history."



# Alexander Graham Bell

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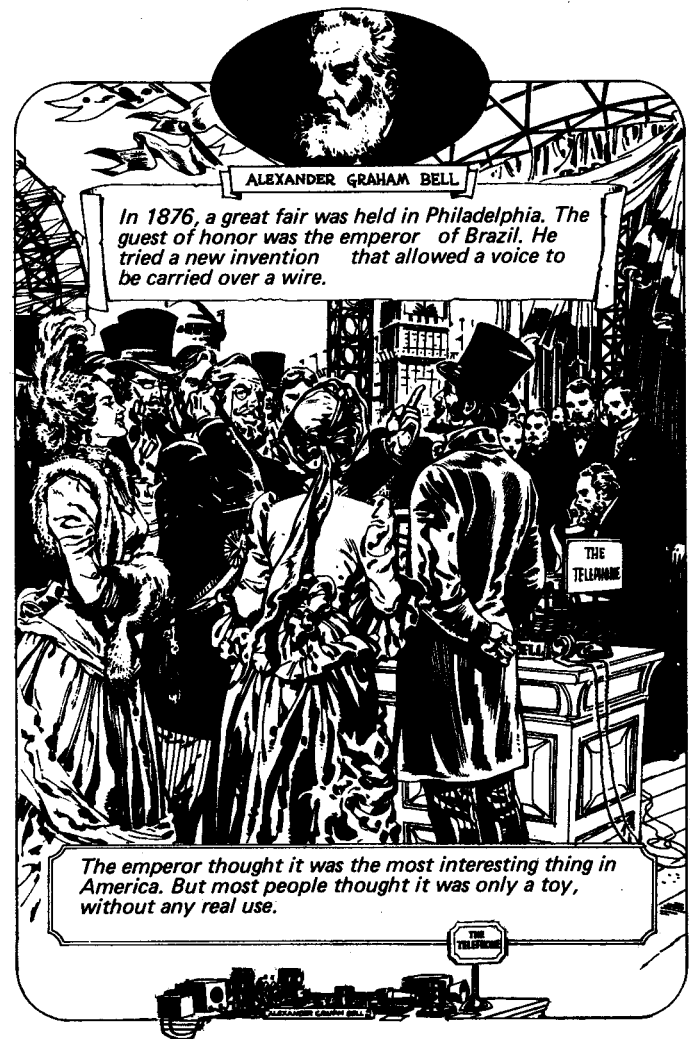
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*ISBN 0-88301-789-X*

*Published by*  
Academic Industries, Inc.  
The Academic Building  
Saw Mill Road  
West Haven, Connecticut 06516

Printed in the United States of America

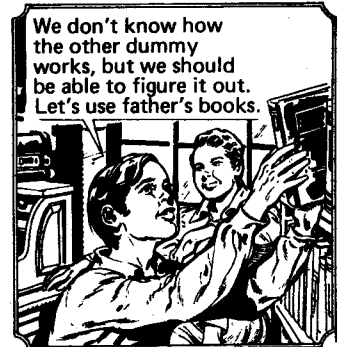
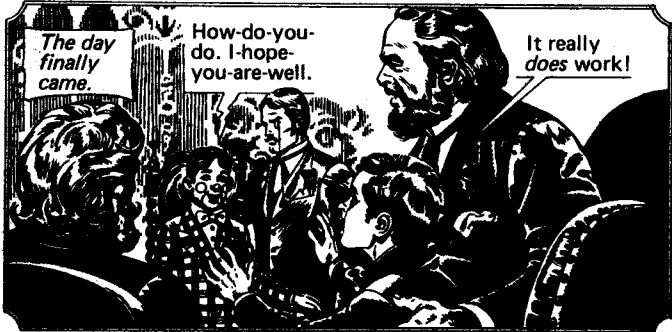
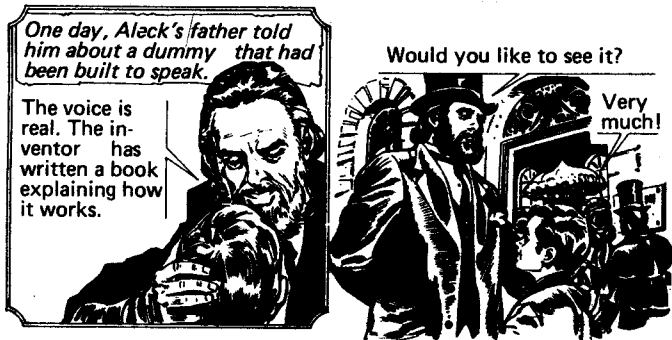
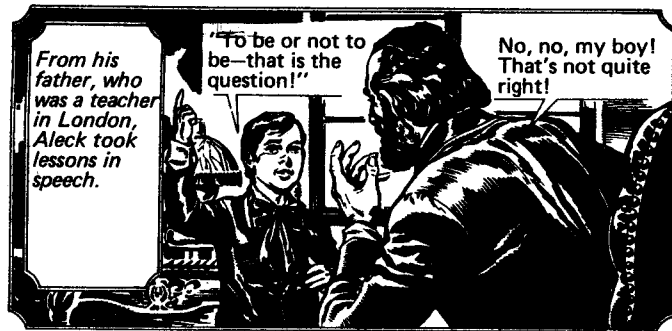
## Alexander Graham Bell



# **The Talking Dummy**

## Alexander Graham Bell







# Lectures and Experiments

## Alexander Graham Bell

So Mr. Bell gave up his work in London, and they sailed for Canada. Aleck played the piano in the ship's concert.



They reached Quebec, Canada, on August 1, 1870.

Smell that air!  
You'll be well  
in no time.

I'm sure  
you're  
right.

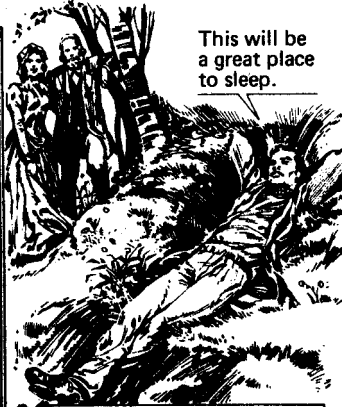


They  
settled  
near  
Brant-  
ford, a  
town in  
Ontario.

We'll hang  
a hammock  
here, Aleck.



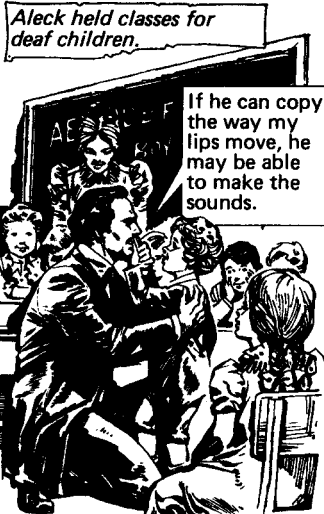
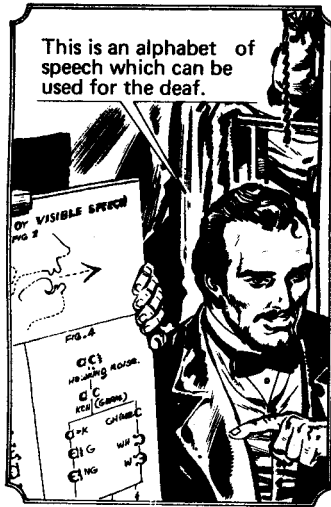
This will be  
a great place  
to sleep.



In Ontario, Aleck rested. He  
also studied and thought.

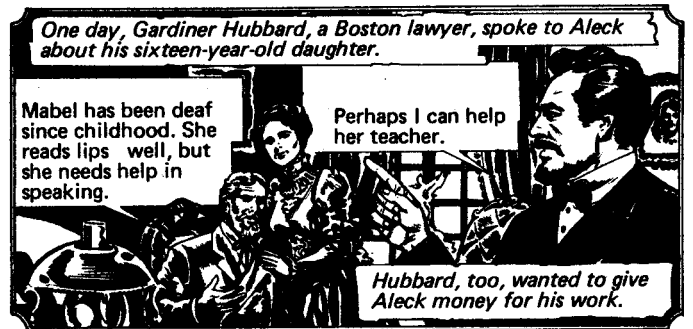






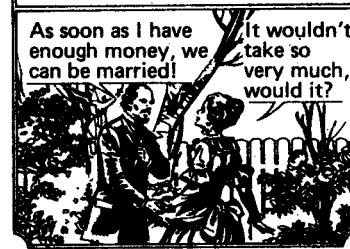
But he spent his nights working on his own experiments.

He spoke of what he had learned to Thomas Sanders, the father of one of his students.



Soon Aleck was visiting the Hubbards every week—but not to teach. He and Mabel were in love.

Later, Aleck visited a shop where inventors could have parts built for their experiments.



# The Telegraph

You've studied electricity? Then perhaps you can tell me. . . .



The two men talked for hours.

Everybody's leaving. It must be dinnertime!

Come to my house and have dinner with me.



Soon they were spending most of their evenings together, working on Aleck's new telegraph.

It should work! It's a matter of getting everything to work at the same time.

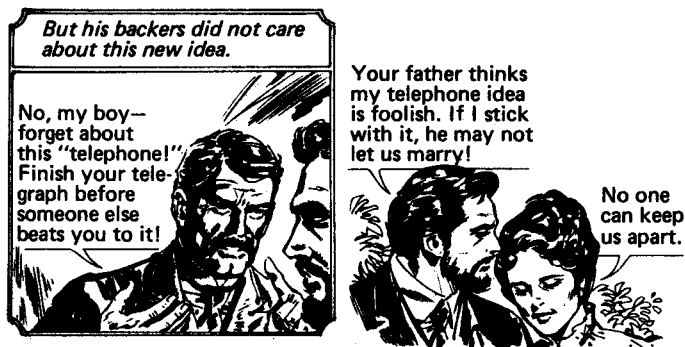
That's it, all right!



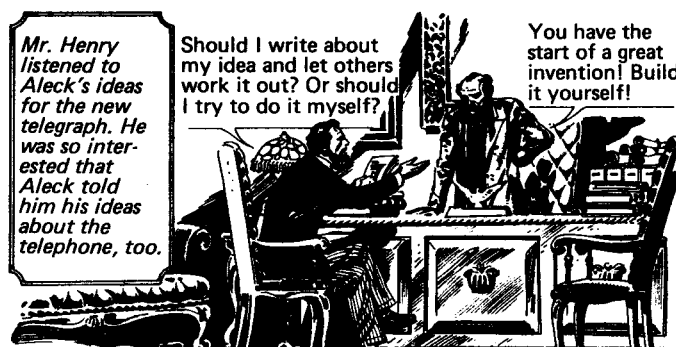
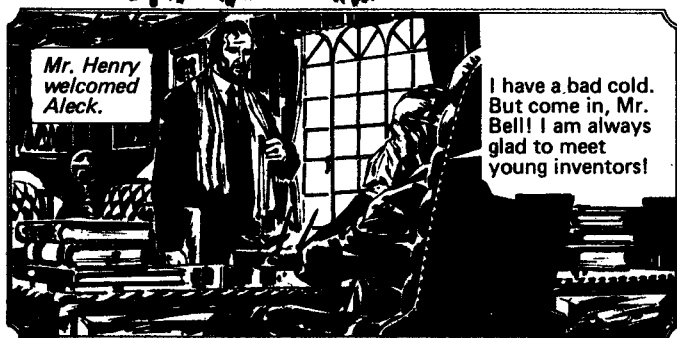
There's another idea I want to try. Maybe we could find a way to send speech over a wire instead of these long and short sounds.

I think we could!





So Aleck went to Washington to get a patent on his telegraph. Then he went to see the head of the Smithsonian Institution.



But back in Boston, Aleck went on working on the telegraph.



# **The Telephone**

But that's it—what we need for the telephone! What I heard sounded almost like a voice.



*Each time they plucked the reed the sound was the same.*

Do you hear?  
It's like a voice  
without words!

Yes, you're  
right!



*They were finally on their way to building the telephone.*

Could you make up some simple models tomorrow?



I think so.

*Much work lay ahead. Aleck gave up his classes for a while. Watson gave up his other work. They tested one model after another.*

I've brought you a gift—your picture.



Do you like it?

A night owl! Well, I won't always be one.



Often during the summer, Aleck didn't sleep. Sometimes he forgot to eat. One night he fainted, and Watson went for a doctor.

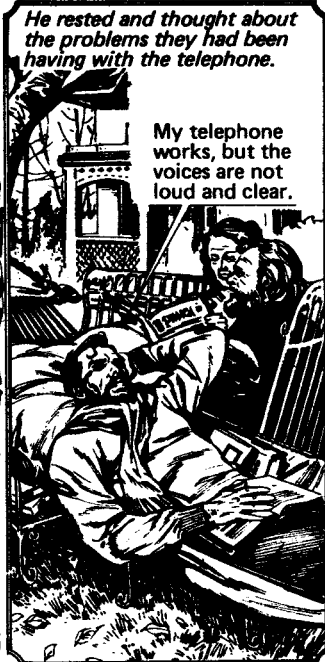
He needs country air, good food, and plenty of rest!



So once again Aleck went to Canada for his health.

He rested and thought about the problems they had been having with the telephone.

My telephone works, but the voices are not loud and clear.



At least I have time now to get my papers in order and to apply for a patent.



The following March, 1876, he was given a patent on the first telephone.

That same month he returned to Boston.

I have a new idea to try: a battery that will give more power to the voice.



Watson put one end of the telephone to his ear. Suddenly . . .

Mr. Watson, come here! I want you!



Go to the far room and listen while I try to talk to you.



Watson ran to the other room.

I spilled the battery acid.

Never mind that! I heard you! It was clear—every sound!





Then the men changed places. They tried the test again and again. It was the world's first telephone conversation.

Aleck told Mabel about the telephone.

Oh, Aleck! You must show it at the fair in Philadelphia!

It was June. In Philadelphia, the heat was terrible.

Look! Here come the judges!

The crowds have not bothered with the telephone. Let's hope the judges will!



The judges came to the next exhibit.

This heat is too much! Let us put off the rest until tomorrow!

A fine idea!

Well, that's it! I must return to Boston tonight.

And I can't show the telephone by myself!

One of the judges was the emperor of Brazil. He saw Aleck.

Why, Mr. Bell! I met you in Boston! What are you showing here?

My new invention—a telephone. But tonight I must return to Boston.

Then we must see it now! Judges, there is one more exhibit we must see today—Mr. Bell's telephone.



Hold it close to your ear!

It talks!

Aleck went to the far end of the hall where wires were strung up. The emperor listened.



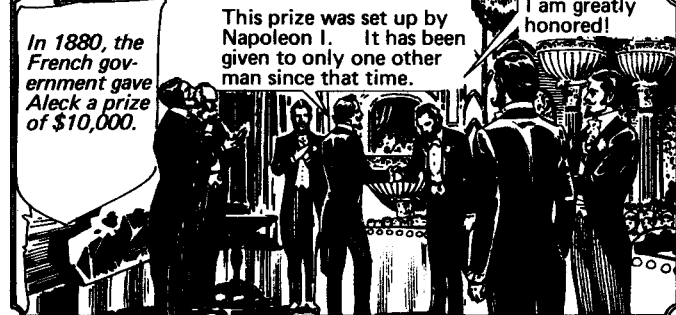
Everybody tried it. It worked! The judges were pleased, and Aleck was happy.

You will win the prize, of course. This telephone is the best thing I have seen in America!









*In 1915, the last connection was made. It joined telephone lines in America from coast to coast. President Woodrow Wilson spoke to the governor of California.*

Hello! I greet the great state of California from Washington, D.C.!



*And on an exact copy of the first telephone, Aleck spoke from New York to Thomas Watson in California.*

Mr. Watson, come here! I want you!



*Alexander Graham Bell never stopped inventing things. He died on August 2, 1922, after a long and happy life.*

**THE END**

**Do you remember?**



Early in his life, Alexander Graham Bell worked with people who were:

- a. blind.      b. deaf.      c. seasick.



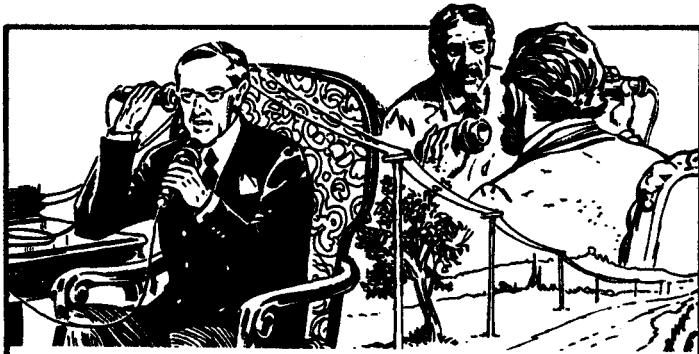
In perfecting his new telegraph, Bell worked with Thomas Watson, who knew about:

- a. electricity.      b. cooking.      c. music.



The telephone was first shown to the public at:

- a. the Crystal Palace in London.
- b. a great fair in Philadelphia..
- c. Disneyland.



The first coast-to-coast telephone call was made in 1915 when the president of the United States was:

- a. John Kennedy.
- b. Woodrow Wilson.
- c. Thomas Jefferson.

# Quiz Yourself

(Answers at end of section)

## Words to know

hammock	a swinging couch or bed often hung between two trees
future	the time still to come
concert	a show in which music is played for the public
apply	fill out papers to ask for something
phonograph	record player



## Can you use them?

Using the words above, complete the following sentences.



1. During summer afternoons, he liked to lie in the \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Some people like to spend their evenings at home listening to the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. After finishing high school, many students decide to \_\_\_\_\_ to a good college.
4. During warm weather, a \_\_\_\_\_ might be held outdoors so more people can attend.
5. Everyone should set goals for his \_\_\_\_\_.

## Using pictures

In reading illustrated stories, you will find it helpful to "read" the pictures as well as the words. Look at this picture of Aleck's father giving him speech lessons. Aleck's parents taught him that learning anything meant hours of practice.



They often made up tasks or lessons for him that would one day help him come up with ideas of his own. Now look at pages 43 and 44 to see how Aleck was able to use in his own teaching what his father had already taught him.

## While you are reading

As a child, Alexander Graham Bell often learned something by doing it. While you are reading, make a list of the things Aleck did as a boy or a young man that helped him become an inventor in later life.




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## How well did you read?

When you have finished reading, answer the following questions.

1. Why did Aleck's parents decide to move to Canada when Aleck was a young man?

(Check the correct answer.)

- \_\_\_\_\_ a. Aleck's father had been offered a job there.
- \_\_\_\_\_ b. Aleck's brothers were already living there.
- \_\_\_\_\_ c. Aleck was ill.
- \_\_\_\_\_ d. Aleck wanted to go to school in Canada.



2. Which of the following people told Aleck to build his own telephone rather than have someone else do it?

(Check the correct answer.)



- \_\_\_\_\_ a. his brother, Melville
- \_\_\_\_\_ b. Mr. Henry
- \_\_\_\_\_ c. Thomas Sanders
- \_\_\_\_\_ d. Gardiner Hubbard



3. When did scientists finally become interested in Bell's telephone?

(Check the correct answer.)

- \_\_\_\_\_ a. after it won a prize at a Philadelphia fair
- \_\_\_\_\_ b. after Aleck showed the telephone to a group in Salem, Massachusetts
- \_\_\_\_\_ c. while Aleck and Mabel were in England
- \_\_\_\_\_ d. several years after Aleck's death



4. Which of the following problems did Bell face after he built the first telephone?

(Check the correct answers.)

- \_\_\_\_\_ a. Most people could see no use for the telephone.
- \_\_\_\_\_ b. Aleck made no money from his invention.
- \_\_\_\_\_ c. Aleck had to go to court to protect his invention.
- \_\_\_\_\_ d. Another company started selling telephones.
- \_\_\_\_\_ e. The telephone never worked as well as he had expected.



5. What accidentally happened one day to give Aleck the clue he needed to build the first telephone?

(Check the correct answer.)

- \_\_\_\_\_ a. Aleck became ill and spent his time thinking about the telephone.
- \_\_\_\_\_ b. Thomas Watson built one of the parts for Aleck's telegraph differently from the way Aleck had wanted it.
- \_\_\_\_\_ c. Aleck spilled battery acid.
- \_\_\_\_\_ d. Mr. Watson tried to loosen one of the steel reeds on the telegraph.



### Using what you've read

Imagine that you have a chance to talk on the very first telephone. To whom would you choose to speak, and what would you say? Write a brief account of your conversation. Don't forget that what you say will be remembered by people for many years to come.



## NOTES

### ANSWER KEY

#### ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL

Can you use them?

- |               |            |
|---------------|------------|
| 1. hammock    | 3. apply   |
| 2. phonograph | 4. concert |
| 5. future     |            |

How well did you read?

- |      |            |
|------|------------|
| 1. c | 3. a       |
| 2. b | 4. a, c, d |
| 5. d |            |